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LETTER DATED 13 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to request a meeting of the Security Council in connection with the tragic events which recently happened in Abkhazia, the Republic of Georgia.

I attach herein a copy of the letter of the Chairman of the Parliament, Head of State of the Republic of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, addressed to H.E. Secretary-General of the United Nations Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali in which you will see Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze requests a special meeting of the Security Council.

I would be most grateful if this letter and this attachment are circulated to the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Peter CHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative,
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary

Annex

Letter dated 12 October 1993 from the Chairman of the Parliament and Head of State of the Republic of Georgia addressed to the Secretary-General

You are aware of the fact that on 16 September 1993 the Gudauta armed groups once more treacherously violated the Sochi cease-fire agreement of 27 July and started a savage massacre of the civilian population.

To justify the renewal of bloodshed fifty days after the conclusion of the agreement, the Gudauta fascists of the nineties of the twentieth century claim that the Georgian side was purposefully dragging out the fulfilment of the terms of the agreement, allegedly violating the schedule of the withdrawal of the troops, artillery and heavy armour. The resumption of the military operations has disclosed the true violators of the agreement - the Gudauta side has turned out to be well-prepared to wage a war, being equipped with state-of-the-art weapons, currently at the disposal of the Russian military forces.

At the Joint Commission meetings the Georgian representatives have repeatedly stated that it is the Gudauta side which avoids compliance with the terms of the above agreement. Previously, they had hidden away a considerable amount of artillery and heavy armour and were biding their time to unleash active offensives. The subsequent unfolding of events testified to the above.

Dear Secretary-General, we attempted to avoid this catastrophe with all the means within our power. With a feeling of gratitude, I want to acknowledge all of your personal efforts to bring the Abkhaz conflict to an end. One group of United Nations observers had arrived at the war zone and started their work, but even that wasn't sufficient to impede the dastardly schemes of the separatists. Gudauta barbarians and their supporters conducted ethnic cleansing and genocide of ethnic Georgians of the Abkhaz region. They showed mercy to no one, neither to child or woman, nor to the elderly. Instead, they shot to death everyone that fell into their hands. Zhiuli Shartava, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Abkhazia, became one of the victims of their cruelty.

As a result of a violation of the 27 July Sochi Agreement, about 3,000 were wounded and hundreds of innocent people perished. One cannot estimate the entire number of victims because, following the retreat from Sukhumi, it became impossible to register the dead or wounded. However, according to numerous eye witness accounts, the extermination of ethnic Georgians still continues. Over 125,000 displaced persons fled the Abkhaz region and are dying of hunger and cold in the Svaneti mountains.

Regretfully, I need to mention that the United Nations Security Council has not yet presented its evaluation of these tragic events that have befallen Georgia.

Dear Secretary-General, the Georgian Republic urgently requests that a special United Nations Security Council meeting be convoked. We believe that the facts about ethnic cleansing and genocide of peaceful population in Abkhazia require a severe condemnation by the United Nations Security Council. If we

take into consideration multiple statements by Abkhaz separatists, we need to acknowledge that there is a serious threat placed upon the territorial integrity of the Georgian Republic.

We are certain that the United Nations Security Council will fully use all its authority to coerce Abkhaz leaders to cease their abominable violations of human dignity and the heartless slaughter of these persecuted ethnic Georgians. Simultaneously, we hope that the Security Council will instruct all United Nations members to desist in their support of Abkhaz separatists until this issue is politically resolved.

We ask you to immediately take all necessary measures to organize a special working mission under the aegis of the United Nations which will collect data concerning the barbaric violations of human rights. In the near future this information will form a cornerstone in the formulation of the proper charges against separatists by the international community.

I will take this opportunity to once again show you my deep and honest respect.

(Signed) Eduard SHEVARDNADZE